

1934 Graf Zeppelin Mail Service

In 1934 the Graf Zeppelin airmail schedules were integrated into the schedules of the newly-formed Deutsche Lufthansa South Atlantic airmail service.

Deutsche Lufthansa South Atlantic Airmail - DLH airmail service began in February 1934, using catapult planes to cross the South Atlantic between Bathurst and Natal - Mail was flown every two weeks.

1934 Graf Zeppelin Schedule - During the zeppelin flying season from May to October zeppelin flights alternated with DLH to provide weekly service - The zeppelin routes and procedures were the same as in 1933.



Standard Cachets - The same cachet reading "GERMAN AIRMAIL ☆ EUROPE - SOUTH AMERICA" was used for both zeppelin and DLH flights.

Code letter at right shows where the German Post Office turned the mail over to the airmail carriers for delivery to Brazil.

☆ Stuttgart b Friedrichshafen d On Board
a Berlin c Friedrichshafen

Identifying Zeppelin Mail - Zeppelin mail can be distinguished from DLH mail by the flight dates and, sometimes, by a Friedrichshafen cachet code letter or transit marking.

	Friedr.	Recife	Rio
Zeppelin	26 May	29 May	
Condor		29 May	29 May

FIRST 1934 OUTBOUND FLIGHT



Standard Cachet with Code Letter "b" for Friedrichshafen - Cachet code letter and transit marking show letter was loaded aboard the zeppelin at Friedrichshafen - Postage RM 1.50 airmail, .25 surface. Air France rate 1.55 paid in error.

	Berlin	Stuttgart	Friedr.	Recife
DLH	26 May	26 May	26 May	
Zeppelin			26 May	29 May



"a" in Cachet for Connecting Flight from Berlin - Late posting flown by DLH to Friedrichshafen to meet the zeppelin - Postage RM 1.50 airmail, .25 surface.



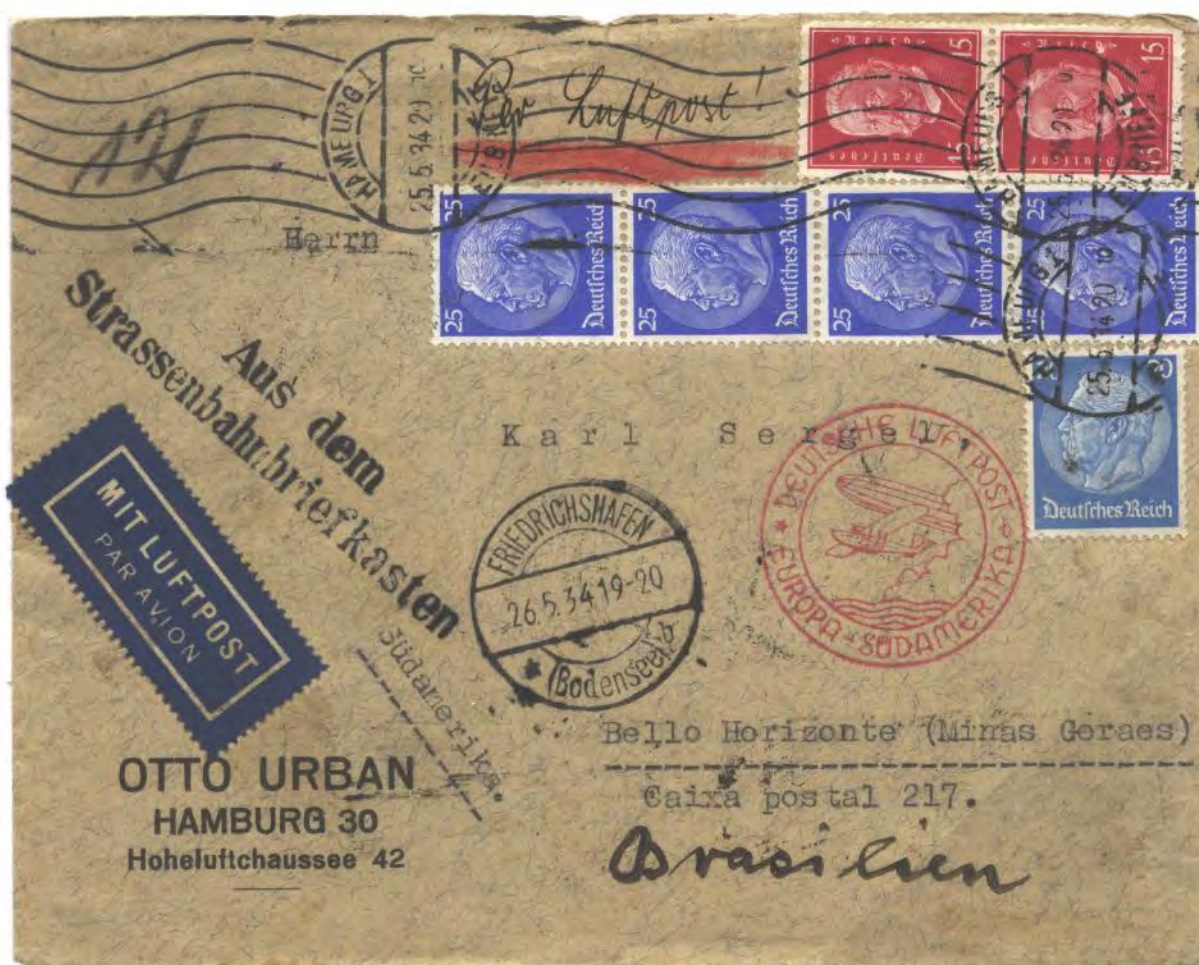
"*" in Cachet for Connecting Flight from Stuttgart - Late mail from central Germany flown by DLH from Stuttgart to the zeppelin at Friedrichshafen - Postage RM 2.50 (2 x 1.50 per five grams) airmail, .25 surface.

The Friedrichshafen transit marking was applied in error.

Friedr.	Recife	Rio
26 May	29 May	
	29 May	29 May

Aus dem
Strassenbahnbriefkasten

From the Streetcar Mailbox



Zeppelin Airmail Posted in Hamburg Streetcar Mailbox. Mailboxes placed on the outside of the city's streetcars allowed mail to be posted for rapid delivery within the city for an extra fee - Postage RM 3.75 airmail (3 x 1.25 per 5 grams), .25 surface, .05 Hamburg streetcar (2.55 on back).

The faster service within Hamburg helped this letter reach the Graf Zeppelin before her departure for Brazil.

	Friedr.	Recife	Rio
Zeppelin	26 May	29 May	
Condor		29 May	29 May



Free City of Danzig - Meter Franking on Bank Letter - 1.60 gulden meter, .65 stamps on back -
Postage 2.25 = 1.90 airmail, .35 surface.

	B. Aires	Recife	Friedr.
Condor	29 May	1 Jun	
Zeppelin		1 Jun	5 Jun



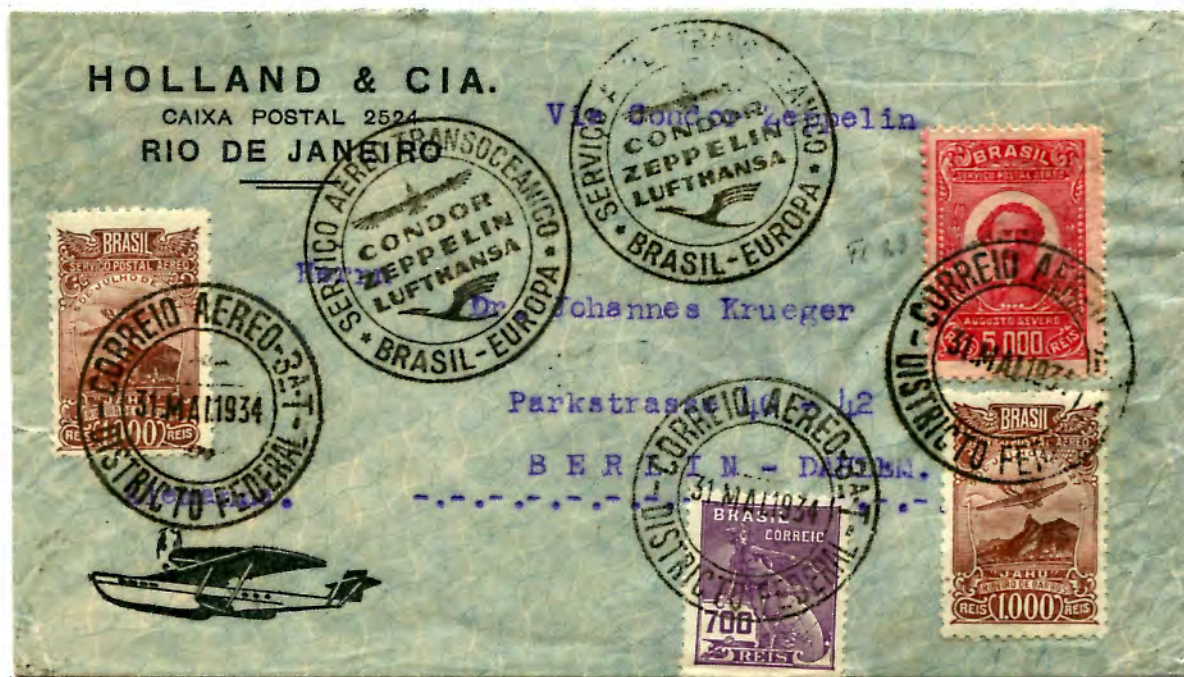
Preliminary Acceptance from Argentina - Carried before the 1934 agreement to transport Argentine mail by zeppelin had been finalized - Backstamp shows carriage by the airship - Postage 2 x 1.00 peso per five grams airmail, .15 surface.



Passenger Mail with Code Letter "d" for on Board Post Office - Written and posted on the return flight - Postage 1.25 airmail, .15 surface card.

	Rio	Recife	Friedr.
Condor	1 Jun	2 Jun	
Zeppelin		2 Jun	5 Jun

Cachet struck twice



Standard Brazilian Cachet Reading "Condor Zeppelin Lufthansa" - Postmark date and Friedrichshafen back stamp show this letter went by zeppelin - Postage 3\$500 airmail, 700 surface.

SECOND 1934 OUTBOUND FLIGHT

	Friedr.	Recife	São Paulo
Zeppelin	9 Jun	12 Jun	
Condor		12 Jun	13 Jun



Italian Meter Franking of Perelli Electric Company - Postage 15.25 lire = 14.00 airmail (2 x 7.00 per 5 grams), 1.25 surface.

	Friedr.	Recife	Rio
Zeppelin	23 Jun	26 Jun	
Condor		26 Jun	27 Jun

ARGENTINA FLIGHT

After the normal outbound flight to Brazil, the Graf Zeppelin performed an experimental flight to Buenos Aires and back, before returning to Europe - Mail was exchanged at Recife in the normal way - The return flight carried the mail for Europe one week later than usual.



Meter Franking on Large Business Letter to Brazil

Flown by zeppelin to Recife and by Condor to Rio - Weight 60 grams - Postage RM 15.85 = 15.00 zeppelin airmail (12 x 1.25 per 5 grams), .55 triple surface, .30 registration.

Normal Route - By zeppelin to Recife, by Condor within South America

As an exception, mail from Argentina went by zeppelin all the way from Buenos Aires to Europe.



1934 Graf Zeppelin Mail Service
Argentina Flight

THIRD 1934 OUTBOUND
FLIGHT

Zeppelin
Condor

Friedr.	Recile	Rio
23 Jun	26 Jun	
	26 Jun	27 Jun



Belgium - Postage 75.00 airmail (6 x 12.50 per 5 grams), 2.75 double surface.



Meter Franking on Express Letter - Rapid delivery was requested within Rio de Janeiro - Postage 1.25 airmail, .25 surface, .50 express fee.



Argentina - To a Ship's Passenger in Trieste - Argentine mail was flown by zeppelin from Buenos Aires to Friedrichshafen - Postage 1.00 peso airmail, .25 registration, .15 surface.



Bank Letter from Paraguay - Standard cachet in Spanish language - Postage 22.50 pesos zeppelin airmail (separate stamp and postmark), 2.00 registration, 2.50 surface.

Rio	Recife	Friedr.
2 Jul	3 Jul	
	3 Jul	6 Jul



To Syria - Middle East Destination - Illustrated advertising for plumbing equipment maker - By air to Berlin and by surface from there to Aleppo - Postage 12\$600 = 3 x 4\$200 per 5 grams, including surface to the Middle East.



Passenger Mail from "1200 Meters above the Atlantic" - Message to Sir Cusrow Wadia, a Commander of the Indian Empire, posted on the last day of the return flight - Postage RM 1.25 airmail, .15 surface card.

	Friedr.	Recife	B. Aires
Zeppelin	21 Jul	24 Jul	
Condor		24 Jul	26 Jul



Routing "Graf Zeppelin 21. VI" added by Swiss Post Office - Postage CHF 2.00 airmail beyond Brazil, .30 surface.

FOURTH 1934 RETURN FLIGHT

	Blumenau	Recife	Friedr.
Condor	25 Jul	27 Jul	
Zeppelin		27 Jul	31 Jul



Standard Cachet in Violet - Used at Blumenau - Postage 4\$200.

Montevideo	Recife	Friedr.
24 Jul	27 Jul	
	27 Jul	31 Jul



Passenger Mail with Special On-Board Cachet - Black oval on-board cachet, on-board postmark, red standard cachet with code letter 'd', Friedrichshafen back stamp, red Berlin airmail arrival marking, and Berlin back stamp - Postage RM 1.25 airmail, .15 surface card.



Uruguay - Standard Black Cachet in Spanish - From Kodak Film Company Office - Boxed marking shows weight and airmail fee - Postage for 10 grams 1.50 airmail, .12 surface.

Montevideo	Recife	Friedr.
24 Jul	27 Jul	
	27 Jul	31 Jul



Mass Franking on Triple Weight Letter - Twenty-five low value stamps frank 3 x 4\$200 per five grams - Stamps on back not cancelled until arrival in Berlin.

Label notes the centenary of German settlement in the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul.

Friedr.	Recite	B. Aires
5 Aug	7 Aug	
	7 Aug	10 Aug



Bulgaria - Bank Letter from Sofia to Buenos Aires - Multiple weight letter with bank seals on the back - Bank corner cards in French and Bulgarian.

The only reported Bulgarian commercial zeppelin cover.



Photocopy of bank seals on reverse.

DLH
Zeppelin

Berlin	Friedr.	Recite
5 Aug	5 Aug	
	5 Aug	7 Aug



Code letter "a" in cachet for connecting flight from Berlin.

Flown on the special DLH flight to meet the zeppelin at Friedrichshafen.

Netherlands Post Office Meter Franking - Postage .80 airmail, .12½ surface.



Sweden - Meter Franking - Postage 4.25 Kr = 4.00 airmail (2 x 2.00 per 5 grams), .25 surface.

	Friedr.	Recife	Rio
Zeppelin	5 Aug	7 Aug	
Condor		7 Aug	8 Aug



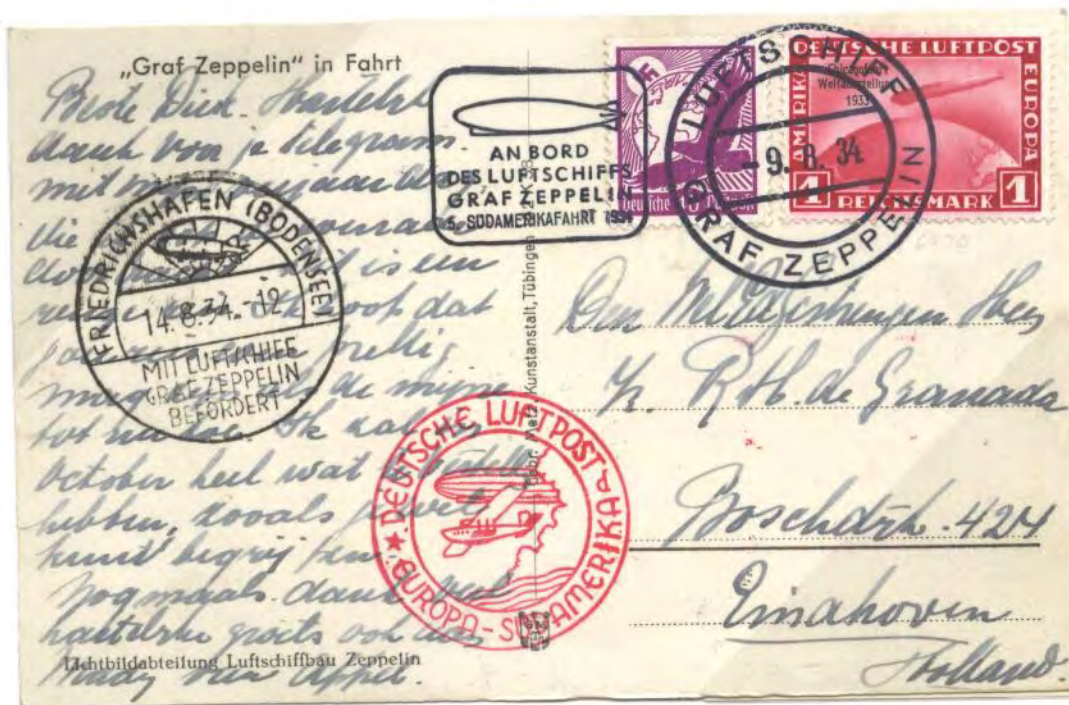
On-Board Cachet "d" Used on Mail from Great Britain - The "d" cachet was reserved for the post office on board, but occurs very rarely on mail from foreign origins - Wrapper for printed matter weighing 7½ - 8 ounces - Postage 12s 6d = 150d = 15 x 10d per ½ oz. air printed matter.

FIFTH 1934 RETURN FLIGHT

	B. Aires	Recife	Friedr.
Condor	7 Aug	11 Aug	
Zeppelin		11 Aug	14 Aug



Argentina - Postage 5.35 pesos = 5.00 airmail (5 x 1.00 per 5 grams), .35 surface - Zeppelin transport confirmed by Friedrichshafen back stamp.



Passenger Mail - The message, in Dutch, sends thanks for a birthday telegram - Chicago Flight stamp helps pay RM 1.25 airmail, .15 surface card.

SIXTH 1934 RETURN FLIGHT

	Rio	Recife	Friedr.
Conдор	24 Aug	24 Aug	
Zeppelin		24 Aug	28 Aug



Six Brazil Meter Strikes on Decorative Advertizing Envelope - Multiple meter strikes pay 2 x 4\$200 per 5 grams airmail.

	Rio	Recife	Seville
Conдор	24 Aug	24 Aug	
Zeppelin		24 Aug	27 Aug



Brazil to Portugal - Off-loaded at Seville - By surface to Lisbon - Decorative advertising envelope with patriotic label - Postage 21\$000 = 5 x 4\$200 per five grams.

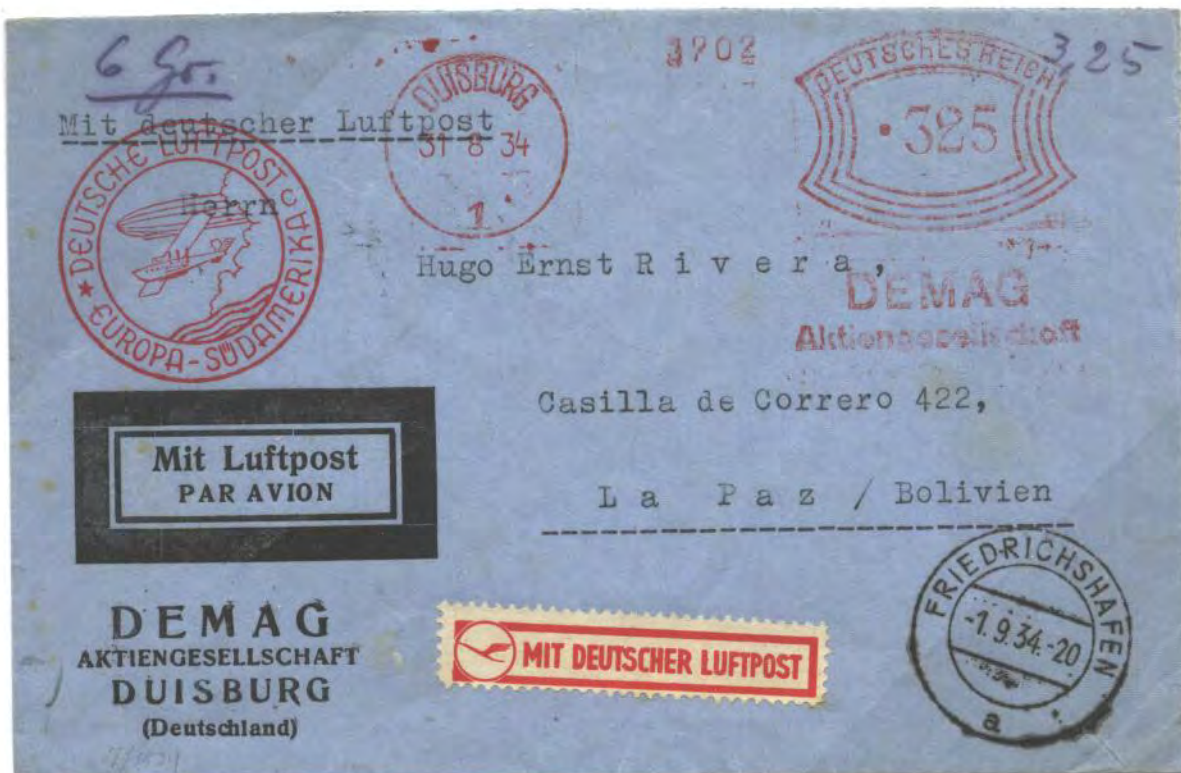


Seville Transit



Lisbon Arrival

Friedr.	Recife	B. Aires
1 Sep	4 Sep	
	4 Sep	6 Sep



To Bolivia - Routed around Gran Chaco War - Flown via Santiago to Arica, in north Chile, and then sent by surface to La Paz - Route avoided fighting between Bolivia and Paraguay - Postage 2 x RM 1.50 per five grams airmail beyond Brazil, .25 surface.

BRAZIL INTERNAL FLIGHT

	Recife	Rio
Zeppelin	5 Sep	6 Sep



Passenger Envelope from Flight within Brazil - Posted on board the flight between Recife and Rio to an addressee in Brazil - Postage RM 1.25 airmail, .25 surface.

Friedr.	Recife	Rio
1 Sep	4 Sep	
	4 Sep	5 Sep



Denmark - Rønne to Rio de Janeiro - Postage 2.80 kroner = 2.50 airmail, .30 surface.

EIGHTH 1934 OUTBOUND FLIGHT

Friedr.	Recife	Rio
15 Sep	18 Sep	
	18 Sep	19 Sep



Additional Postage Affixed by Post Office - Sender paid RM 1.50 postage to Brazil instead of RM 1.75 postage to Argentina - Friedrichshafen post office added the required .25 and billed the sender by mail, following normal German procedures for under-franked airmail.

Friedr.	Recife	Rio
15 Sep	18 Sep	
	18 Sep	19 Sep

Transit postmark
14.9.34 - 20⁰⁰

Sent by Pneumatic Mail within Leipzig - Minutes in Leipzig C2 transit postmark indicate transmission on the pneumatic mail system within the city - This system was only for internal use by the post and telegraph office - Postage RM 1.25 airmail, .25 surface.

NINTH 1934 OUTBOUND FLIGHT

	Stuttgart	Friedr.	Recife
DLH	29 Sep	29 Sep	
Zeppelin		29 Sep	2 Oct



"★" in Cachet for Connecting Flight from Stuttgart - Late mail flown by DLH from Stuttgart to the zeppelin at Friedrichshafen - Postage RM 1.25 airmail, .25 surface.

Friedr.	Recite	110
29 Sep	2 Oct	
	2 Oct	3 Oct

Pneumatic markings: Front:

15 34 SEP 28

Back:

BZ 34 SEP 28 N 1 38



Sent by Pneumatic Mail within Munich - Time-clock marking 15 34 SEP 28 N 1 09, upper left, shows pneumatic mail left Post Office 15 at 1:09 p.m. - BZ 34 SEP 28 N 1 38, on back, shows it arrived at the central railway mail facility at Post Office 2 at 1:38 p.m. - No extra charge for this service - Postage RM 2.50 airmail (2 x 1.25 per five grams), .25 surface.

Greece- Corner Card from a Business in Athens - Flown Greece to Germany, and then on the Stuttgart connecting flight to Friedrichshafen.

Code "★" in cachet for connecting flight from Stuttgart.

Postage 86 drachma = 70 airmail, 8 surface, 8 registration.





Argentina - Standard Cachet in Black - Scarce cachet - Usually omitted on Argentine zeppelin mail - Postage 1.00 peso airmail, .15 surface.

TENTH 1934 OUTBOUND FLIGHT

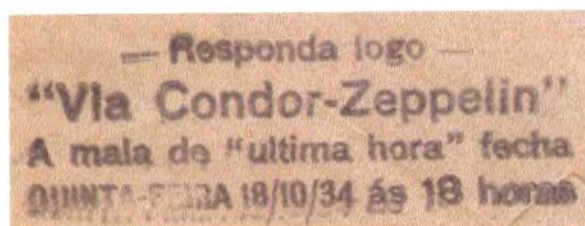


Denmark Meter with Company Logo - Postage 2.80 Kr = 2.50 airmail, .30 surface.

Friedr.	Recife	Rio
13 Oct	16 Oct	
	16 Oct	17 Oct



Italy - Meter Franking on Bank Letter - Postage 15.25 lire = 14.00 airmail (2 x 7.00 per five grams), 1.25 surface.



photocopy of reverse

Cachet used at Rio in 1934 to promote business reply by the return Condor-Zeppelin flight - return mail had to reach the Condor Office in Rio by Thursday, 18 October at 1800.

Friedr.	Recife	Rio
13 Oct	16 Oct	
	16 Oct	17 Oct

On-Board Cachet Used on Mail Loaded at Friedrichshafen



Rubber Cachet with Code Letter "d" - The "d" cachet was reserved for the post office on board the airship but occurs very rarely on other non-letter zeppelin mail.

Special Rates for Commercial Papers - Weight 89 grams - Postage RM 5.00 reduced airmail (4 x 1.25 per 25 grams instead of 5 grams), .25 reduced surface (2 x .05 per 50 grams, minimum .25) .30 registration.



Great Britain - Commercial Use of One Pound Postal Union Congress Stamp - Surplus copies of the unpopular 1929 stamp were used by business firms to send over weight airmail abroad during the 1930's - Postage paid 28s 7d = 28s airmail (8 x 3s 6d per half ounce), surface 7d (paid in error).

	Friedr.	Recite	São Paulo
Zeppelin	8 Dec	11 Dec	
Condor		11 Dec	12 Dec

CHRISTMAS FLIGHT

The final flight of 1934 was scheduled in December for airmail delivery of Christmas parcels to and from South America - The Graf Zeppelin offered the only transatlantic air parcel post service available in 1934.

Photocopies of reverse



Telegraph Office
R/p = Rohrpost



Minutes in time
R = Rohrpost



Austria - Pneumatic Mail (Rohrpost) within Vienna - Red crayon "1", Telegraph Office back stamp, and minutes in times show pneumatic delivery to the Central Post Office.

Cachet "a" for dispatch from Friedrichshafen - Postage 3.20 schilling airmail, .60 surface.

Green Christmas Cachet - Other than the special cachet, this flight followed the normal mail handling procedures and routes - Code letter shows where cachet was applied.

a - Friedrichshafen b - Berlin c - Stuttgart d - Friedrichshafen or On Board

1934 Graf Zeppelin Mail Service
Christmas Flight

TWELFTH 1934 OUTBOUND FLIGHT

Zeppelin
Condor

Friedr.	Recife	São Paulo
8 Dec	11 Dec	
	11 Dec	12 Dec



Bank Letter Envelope

Printed for the German-South American Bank - Postage RM 1.25 airmail, .25 surface.

Cachet code letter "a" for Friedrichshafen

Poland- Meter from Gdynia To a shipping agent in Brazil.

Cachet code letter "b" for Berlin.



1934 Graf Zeppelin Mail Service
Christmas Flight

TWELFTH 1934 OUTBOUND FLIGHT

Zeppelin
Condor

Friedr.	Recife	Rio
8 Dec	11 Dec	
	11 Dec	12 Dec



The Scarcest Cachet
Code Letter for the
Christmas Flight.

Cachet code "c" for the
Stuttgart connecting flight

Postage RM 1.50 airmail
beyond Brazil .25 surface



Great Britain - Cachet code letter "d" for Friedrichshafen - To the British captain of a ship in Rio de Janeiro - Postage 10s 6d airmail (3 x 3s 6d per half ounce), 3d registration.

São Paulo	Recife	Friedr.
13 Dec	14 Dec	
	14 Dec	19 Dec



Brazil Meter Franking - Normal black airmail cachet - Postage 4\$200 airmail.



Paraguay Bank Letter - From Asuncion to a Bank in Berlin - Postage 22.50 pesos zeppelin (separate stamp and postmark), 2.00 registration, 2.50 surface (2 pesos on back).